

It Happens In the Best Regulated Families—By Briggs

The News Scimitar

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BUILDING A CITY

Any person with a project for a commercial enterprise that gives promise of paying a reasonable dividend can locate in Memphis and get behind him all the financial backing he needs.

There is just one institution that heretofore has never sought Memphis and which Memphis has never tried to get, but which it needs far more than any other thing at this time, and for all future time, and that is an institution of higher education.

The opportunity is before us. The Chamber of Commerce has been given to understand that if the people of Memphis will subscribe \$500,000 the trustees of the Southwestern Presbyterian university at Clarksville, Tenn., will contribute \$1,000,000 and move the university to Memphis.

The Southwestern Presbyterian university has behind it a record of more than 40 years of distinguished service and a reputation throughout the country for its high standard of education. Its alumni are scattered in abundance throughout this section. College men as a rule have a strong attachment for their alma mater. They are willing to support it morally and financially.

The Methodists in a large radius of which Memphis is the center complain that they are without a denominational institution. We have had something to say about this before. The Rev. T. E. Sharp, presiding elder of the Memphis district, brought the matter before the Chamber of Commerce early in the week.

The educational board is going to erect a Methodist college at some place in this section. The church is willing to spend \$1,000,000 on it if the people at the location to be selected will contribute \$500,000.

There is no doubt that Memphis can secure both of these institutions by the expenditure of \$1,000,000.

It would be money well spent, and it could be secured without difficulty. We should like to see the Chamber of Commerce get behind these propositions, and put them over. There is not a citizen in Memphis but realizes the need for the atmosphere and influence that 500 or 1,000 clean, high-class, robust, ambitious young men would give to the community.

In the estimation of The News Scimitar we have in the possibility of securing these institutions a remarkable opportunity to make Memphis truly great.

ITALY'S WEALTH

Italy may own a good deal of money, like other European nations, and her national wealth may be much reduced, but that country contains a good deal of private wealth. According to Prof. Gini, an eminent authority, the private wealth of Italy totals 120 billions of lire, not lire at their present value, which is about half their normal value at the present time, but normal lire. The whole country is poor but industrious, and the backbone of barren mountains that runs through it can never be made productive. If Italy had within her borders 1,000 acres of land equal to the rich bottom lands of Indiana or Ohio, by her industry and intensive farming she would raise more to eat than she can produce on three or four times that many acres of her best lands at present. The Italians are a wonderful people, and their industry and ingenuity are amazing. By a system of walls and parterres, begun in the time of the Caesars, they have been extorting from the barren mountain sides much food in the way of nuts and grapes, the former for bread, the latter for drink. With their industry if the Italians had the land to work they would feed a large part of the world.

There are some large plains in Italy, and these are cultivated in a manner to feed the teeming population.

JOHN GETS HIS

America has no ships, in spite of the marvellous work that is being done in our great shipyards, and the seven great German ships that were used to bring home American soldiers from Europe have been turned over to England. John Bull always gets his when there is any division of spoils. We need those ships to send our cotton to Europe, and our other products to South America, and the markets of the world, but with a strange magnanimity we give them to England, which also needs ships. England is the best and biggest purchaser of American products, and she can use these ships in the American trade, which will be some help to our commerce. France is our second best customer, and France will figure out some way to get tonnage to carry what she wants. Canada is our third best customer, and fortunately ships are not required to send her our products. They cross the imaginary line by rail or motor truck, and it is said that airplanes are being used for freight carrying purposes between the two countries. Smugglers introduced the system, and it proved so satisfactory that it has been introduced into legitimate commerce.

A REAL CHIEF

There is genuine satisfaction over the retention of Joe Burney as chief of police by the new administration. He didn't have a chance under the administration that has just gone out of office. The police department was run solely for politics, and Burney not being a politician, was far removed from any responsibility for its conduct, and yet, because he was chief in name, he had to bear the responsibility for its failure. With a free hand Burney can show the stuff he is made of and for the first time since he went into office have an opportunity to make good. We believe he will. We know he can if he will rule the department with an iron hand. It is regretted that so many of the force were so far beyond the pale that they had to be let out. They were made to suffer for the ruthlessness of an administration that made them reward grabbers and graft collectors.

A WELCOME GUEST

It is a genuine pleasure to have in our midst for a few days the representative in congress from the Tenth district, the Hon. Hubert F. Fisher, who is serving his constituency so faithfully and well. The result of the last municipal election eliminated any thought of his most logical opponent and set at rest any prospect of opposition. Mr. Fisher is serving his people too well to be annoyed with opposition, if such opposition as could be arrayed against him could be called annoyance.

Early indications forecast a very dry year for 1920.

Money still talks, but it doesn't say much.



PUBLIC DISCUSSION

ADVICE TO THE NEW MAYOR.

To The News Scimitar:
If I were mayor of this old town, I tell you what I would do. I'd tear a lot of the old buildings down and replace them all with new. I'd set a speed-limit of 15 miles per hour, and if they failed I'd send every speeder out on the stone pile. That's better than having them jailed. I'd next take the landlords for raising the rents. They wouldn't escape, and you know I'd make every one of them live in a tent. When the weather is 50 below. I'd round up the guys that try to act wise. And on the corners and flirts I'd see that they had better use for their eyes. Than inspecting each new style of skirt. I'd see that the street cars were always at work. And to don't hang on a strap. So each time the motorman made the car jerk. He'd land you in somebody's lap. Last, but not least, I would not forget the peddlers of shorts and jacks. For trying to make our dry country wet. By selling us stuff that's a fake. Now don't think I'm trying to criticize the mayors of by-gone days. This would be the best city 'neath Southern skies. If I only had my way. A SHAPPER.

YAZOO TO CONTINUE ITS WHITE PLAGUE FUND

YAZOO CITY, Miss., Jan. 3. (Sp.)—Yazoo city's campaign for a fund with which to fight tuberculosis locally is to continue at least until the fifteenth of this month, says W. B. Nohlin, county health officer, and all of the residents of the city and county who have not been given an opportunity to give to the cause will be given the opportunity in the next two weeks. The short campaign before Christmas was interrupted by the cold weather and the cold situation which brought short business hours.

PLENTY OF COAL FOR YAZOO IS IN SIGHT

YAZOO CITY, Miss., Jan. 3. (Sp.)—Yazoo city expects to have no further trouble in securing coal for the municipal water and light plant which has been threatened for the last two months with a shortage of fuel. The city is, however, having to haul the coal from the railroad to the plant in wagons for the reason that the truck track to the plant is partly under water from the Yazoo river.

Ye Editor Nods

Jolts and Jest
Skipped Past
The Blue Pencil

POST CHRISTMAS.

Office boys, who prior to Christmas, were wont to stand at attention, now knock off early in the afternoon and are darned hard to find in the morning.

SOPORIFIC SCENE.

It is a doubtful tribute to the performance, or rather a doubtful eulogium on the habits and sagacity of a post-holiday visitor who preceded Lady Macbeth one scene and interrupted scribbles and others with gentle snoring during the fourth act of Lady Macbeth at the Lyric Theater Friday night.

It was a certain tribute to the sleeper's peace of mind, however, that he could slumber through the din kept up by the young gentlemen acting as usherers, who seem to delight in giggling and unnecessarily slamming the noise-footed door at the theater's main entrance.

Tom Dwyer, however, is a good disciplinarian and promises there will be no further repetition of "slamming at the door" following immediately after the "knocking at the gate" in Macbeth.

Police dogs are still in catching wildcat stunts in North Carolina.

Quoth John Burns, the stately professor, as he brushed the hair from his forehead:

"This business of getting blind drunk works two ways now."

"Judge" conducts a Bad Break department wherein ludicrous mistakes of other publications are pointed out. A recent issue contained reproduction of a want ad telling of a Mississippians' desire to room with an underling in the Bank of Commerce building.

"Asheville News-Scimitar" was credited.

Can it be that others are following example set by Ye Editor Nods?

Pomp and ceremony that alone lacked the toll of drums and fanfare of trumpets to make the occasion as historical as at the peace conference marked installation of Darwin, Tenn. city officials Friday.

The first official action of Mayor Brad Weaver was to brand as maliciously false the report current by political opponents that he voted for himself in the recent election, thereby defeating his adversary.

Major Weaver pointed out that with woman's suffrage in force there now are two votes in the municipal election of Darwin, thus standing the whole as a farce.

GEORGE M. BRUSH DIES.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 3.—George M. Brush, father of Matthew C. Brush, president of the American International Shipbuilding corporation, is dead here. He was 74 years old. Mr. Brush was prominent in the development of railroads in Minnesota.

On the Spur of the Moment

by Roy K. Moulton

Come one! Come all! To the neighborhood dance to be held Saturday evening in Fireman's Hall. Don't dress.—Fonda (Wis.) Free Press.

We know a very rich man. He contracted for a half-interest in a Christmas turkey.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS.

J. K.—Dr. Elliot never wore pink pajamas in the classroom.

A. W. T.—Colonel House does not wear a wrist watch.

James T.—An excellent breakfast food can be made of an old straw hat run through a meat chopper.

The "Lycee Amerique" has been organized to assist needy American writers in Spain. The needy American writers in America will continue to shift for themselves.

When we get eighty or ninety well-meant and excellent contributions to this column every day, we can't use all of them at once. Cheer up, brothers and sisters. Some of the gas sent in last spring will be along directly. Our beautiful and accomplished secretary reads them all and enjoys them and then turns them over to us a hundred at a time.

There's isn't much use having a cold any more.

James Lawlor says there once was a fellow who said to his friend: "I'll bet you \$10 that Lake Michigan is Superior to Lake Ontario." And the friend, being a good sport, though poorly versed in geography, replied: "Huron."

Since July 1 the flesh has been willing, but the spirits have been weak.

Seven automobile repairs in New Jersey were discharged for smoking in the garage. Where there is so much smoke there must be some firing.

Just to aid the eternal fitness of things, we feel constrained to mention the fact that Mr. J. W. Planter is an undertaker in Jackson, Ala.

WHO CARRIES IT HOME?

PAINTING AND PLASTERING DONE HERE.

—Sign in Buffalo.

J. K. Adams wants to know if when a parcel post package arrives at the destination minus 50 per cent of its contents it should be called Burleson's partial post. We haven't been getting ours that way, so we have no complaint, personally.

NO, JOE, YOU SAY IT, WE HAVEN'T THE HEART.

Dear Roy—Would you be so rash as to say that the NIGHTY dollar has become the FLIGHTY dollar since old man H. C. I. has "took" to living in the empyrean heights?—Joe Burger.



THE PEACE TREATY AND THE MOVIES

BY FREDERIC J. HASKIN.

NEW YORK, Jan. 3.—Movie fans all over the country are now being urged by the movie industry to write to their senators and ask them, for the love of Mike, to ratify the peace treaty, and ratify it now.

"If you don't know your senator's name, ask your neighbor or telephone your local newspaper," the manager of a large movie theater told his audience here the other day, "but get your message off right away."

Meanwhile the supply of white paper is rapidly becoming exhausted by members of the industry in sending frantic dispatches to Washington for an early ratification, and, as for telegraph blanks, so many have been devoted to this purpose recently that there were scarcely any left for New Year felicitations.

From this you may gather that there is something important going on between the treaty and the movie business, but doubtless you are still wondering how such a situation could affect the movie fan. It does in only this way: If the treaty is not ratified pretty soon the movie picture industry is going to be so hard hit that it will have to pass the blow on to the movie theaters, and the movie theaters will have to recover from it by charging higher admission prices. So will a failure to ratify the treaty take money out of the pocket of everybody who goes to the movies.

The price of admission to the movies, however, the movie industry says has not risen in proportion to other prices since the war. Now there are advance runners that, if certain conditions are not ameliorated within the next couple of months, the movie as an amusement, will be as expensive as the average theatrical show. It is a dire threat. Surely congress will be stout-hearted to withstand the movie picture industry.

The conditions thus hinted at are principally in Europe. Europe has stopped importing films from the United States because its rate of money exchange is so disturbed that it can not afford to do so. Recently the pound sterling has dropped to a value below \$4, while the franc declined to a little over half its normal value. Naturally, with its purchasing power so hampered and with its credit badly limited, Europe is buying only the direct necessities of life, or the raw materials from which to manufacture them. While admitting itself to be ravenous for amusement, it is stoically refusing to buy until the rate of money exchange assumes its normal equilibrium.

This can happen until the United States ratifies the peace treaty, thereby ending the unrest and uncertainty existing in Europe, which is keeping it poor and causing American bankers to be most cautious in the matter of loans. Although it is not commonly known, the American film business has, for several years, been depending upon Europe for most of its big profits. When the war started the established producers of motion pictures were recovering only the costs of their production in Europe, where the profits came from Europe. Or, as the movie men themselves describe it, Europe was vol-

With the war conditions immediately became so chaotic and money so tight in the belligerent countries that there was a sudden cessation in the purchase of American films, which hit many of our oldest exhibitors hard. Later, however, the whole of warring Europe went into a state of panic. The people who stayed at home had to have furniture as well as playthings and a secure and permanent financial balance from the awful trade in munitions. At the same time the amusement industries of Europe almost ceased production on account of the scarcity of man power and the necessity for converting every factory into a war plant. France, Italy, Great Britain and Germany, which had been producing films so that for a while the only source of supply left to meet the tremendous demand was in America, were now in a state of panic.

The American movie manufacturers held a virtual monopoly, which brought in billions of dollars in "black work alone," says one movie authority, "has been known to pay \$100,000 for one of our big picture stars for one year during the war, when the European trade was only half alive, was nearly \$1,000,000."

So, you see, the American movie industry was unprepared when the war suddenly ended and the foreign exchange began to interfere with business. The exchange situation makes American film cost to the European something like twice the money it is used to. The price is prohibitive. Although the foreign public is as mad for amusement as ever, and movie picture houses are springing up all over Europe, the American product is now practically barred, in some cases by government embargo.

Germany and Italy have both placed strict embargoes on the importation of American films. Meanwhile the European movie picture manufacturers are making haste to take advantage of this condition, by charging a price for their films that is not only higher than the American price, but is also shipping films to this country. British producers are importing American films in English studios, in some cases featuring an American leading woman with a few leading men, and vice versa. London, which lost its hold upon the exportation of films to the British possessions during the war, is now rapidly regaining it.

No wonder the American producers are so anxious to see the situation in the movie world is indeed critical. "How do you suppose," one movie producer demanded the other day, as he nervously chewed a prodigious cigar, "we are going to continue to buy \$25,000 stories for our business; pay our artists and writers enormous salaries, and advertise their pictures at an enormous cost, and then have them go to Europe and be sold for a few cents? It is going to happen—the production costs are passed on to the exhibitor."

Exhibitors will have to lower the standard of the pictures we are producing, which will hurt the exhibitor through a decreased patronage at his theaters or we will have to charge higher rentals for our films. The higher rentals, in turn, will be passed on to the public in the form of a higher admission price."

In considering this problem facing the movie industry, the producers contend, it must be borne in mind that pictures are different from other commodities. The closing of the foreign market does not tend to glut the market on this side, as might occur in the case of foodstuffs or other manufactured goods, thus reducing the price. There will be no more pictures here than there are now, and the exhibitors will have to make do with what they have. The manufacturers will merely cease making extra prints. But the cost of pictures, whether the European market takes them or not, remains the same. The only alternative, therefore, will be to reduce the cost or to charge more for the picture.

It is encouraging to note, however, that the producers are not piously reciting the conditions under which a valiant struggle. Some of them have moved their entire equipment, including furniture as well as players and camera men to Europe, where they can stage the whole production in foreign money, thereby avoiding the exchange difficulties. Others are attempting to make an arrangement whereby the foreign exhibitors shall pay for American films in merchandise instead of money. Still others are extending long-term credits until the rate of exchange comes back. But all are united in working for what they believe will be the speedy ratification of the peace treaty.

Caution is an excellent balance to character, but like all other virtues it can be carried to unpleasant extremes. If it is manifested too freely in business, it paralyzes the man who exhibits it. It is a fine thing to be a bit cautious and to look well before you leap, but the personal person who hesitates so much time to the looking that he never leaps at all.

A girl has written me depicting her trials and trouble with a young man whose bomb of caution would seem to be the most prominent feature of his character.

"I am a girl 21 years of age," she writes, "and I am facing a hard problem. For almost three years I have been engaged to a young man, who is now a senior. I removed from the place where we both lived, and at that time it was decided that we were to be married very soon."

"In my new home I fell ill and was sick for some time, and told him about it and in his next letter he said 'Please do tell me if you are on the doctor's hands very much, for if you are going to use an invalid, we are married it would not be very well, as I am improving my home right now, and this takes all my own earnings.'"

"This makes me feel he is selfish and stingy, and I feel he has his own corner and home surroundings that he will of his wife. How do you look at it?"

"Then, too, he wants me to come and stay with his folks until next spring, and he says 'Then, if we don't get married, and he does not seem willing to come and see me. So I do not think it would be proper to go as he suggests, and mother thinks the same.'"

"Your opinion of this matter will be greatly appreciated. My dear girl, the two paragraphs you have given from this young man's letter present a very perfect picture of a man who is not only a selfish, but a very selfish man, and I would not see him as clearly as I do in this little sketch of himself given in his own words."

In him, caution is carried to its uth peak, and he is not only a problem; he is a problem, and he is a problem. He is tormented daily and hourly by doubts and fears. You were foolish enough to fall ill, and he was generous enough to write and tell him of it. It probably caused him sleepless nights. Now, having about you. Oh, how could he be so bothered to death for fear you might have a bad habit of catching any disease that might be going around, and then he would have to pay the doctor's bills. It is poisoning his sympathy to think that at the moment he might otherwise spend in making his place a good, salable property should possibly have to be wanted that he would know it in time, so that he may gracefully retire.

Then a brilliant idea strikes him; it is another exhibition of his supreme caution. He evokes the clever, little plan of asking you to visit his relatives during the winter months. You are so to speak, to be an probation. He will have you under his own eye during the most severe weather of the year. If you are lucky enough to wrestle through it without a cold, he may be satisfied. Another advantage: you will be constantly under the eyes of his relatives, and you may be sure those will be critical eyes. His own observation will be supplemented by theirs. They will be able to give him many insights on your character and habits, and can decide whether you are lazy, or extravagant, or delicate.

But he is an honorable man, accord-

He hastily takes his pen in hand, not to express any sympathy with you in the situation, but to find out if you are likely to have any recurrence of your illness. If there is any prospect of that, he wishes to know it in time, so that he may gracefully retire.

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Mrs. Wilson Woodrow's Article

BY MRS. WILSON WOODROW.
The world-famous writer on vital subjects.

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